

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-8 in the application. In previous responses, Claims 1 and 6 were amended. In the present response, Claim 7 has been amended to correct an informality. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claim 7 due to an informality. In response, Claim 7 has been amended to "method of Claim 6" instead of "method of Claim 7." Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner remove the objection.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,570,964 to Murveit, *et al.* In response to the Examiner's reliance on Murveit, the Applicant submits herewith an Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 of the inventors, with a true and correct copy of an invention submission form submitted as Exhibit A. The Affidavit and the Exhibits conclusively provide evidence that establishes the present invention was conceived prior to the filing date of Murveit (April 19, 1999). More specifically, the Affidavit establishes that some embodiments of the present invention were conceived at the creation of the invention submission form while other embodiments were conceived as the scope and content of the patent application was defined during preparation of the patent application. Additionally, the Affidavit demonstrates diligence from conception of the fully conceived invention to reduction to practice at the filing of

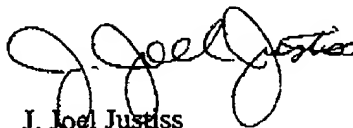
the present application. As a result, Murveit is antedated by the present invention. Thus, Murveit is not a proper prior art reference and does not anticipate Claims 1-8. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the §102(e) rejection with respect to these claims.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-8. The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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